

PRICE RISES HIT WORKERS' POCKETS

UAW Calls National Stoppage to Halt Price Jump

DETROIT, July 17—Hundreds of thousands of members of the United Automobile Workers Union (CIO) went on two-hour-long stoppages to protest against rising prices. The nation-wide demonstrations showed the UAW again taking the lead in militant labor action to halt price profiteering.

The Detroit demonstration—in which a mighty throng of 80,000 packed Cadillac Square—heard Walter Reuther, UAW President, call for buyers' strikes as a means of demonstrating against rising prices. Reuther singled out the meat industry as a notorious profiteer and urged buyers' strikes on meat.

Similar demonstrations were held throughout the nation by the UAW. (Full reports in next week's LABOR ACTION.)

By BEN HALL

DETROIT, July 15 — At the call of the United Automobile Workers Union, thousands of workers supported by members of Negro, veterans, consumers, and labor organizations will demonstrate in Cadillac Square on the afternoon of July 16 to protest the end of price control.

This demonstration is the direct outcome of a mass meeting attended by over 1000 CIO shop stewards and local union officers two weeks ago where Walter Reuther, outlining the program of the policy committee of the UAW, called upon Phillip Murray to convene a United Labor Conference of all American labor to discuss action to repulse the anti-labor offensive of Congress and to restore price controls. At this meeting resolutions were passed asking the CIO through Murray to call a one-day national labor holiday and failing that, insisting upon a one-day work stoppage in the Detroit area.

But Murray has been totally silent throughout the price crisis. He has outlined no program of his own and is reported to have vetoed the idea of a one-day national holiday and to have frowned upon even a stoppage of work in the Detroit section. The Tuesday demonstration is therefore a compromise with the views of Murray. It is not called as a general 24-hour work stoppage. Instructions to local unions are to shut down the plants for part of a shift in agreement with their respective employers and if this agreement is not forthcoming to close the factories "for not more than two hours on any one shift on the day of the demonstration."

To repeat: it is the UAW which is calling this demonstration. Similar actions will be called on the same day, where possible, wherever the UAW has strength. The International Executive Board of the CIO has yet to be heard from.

The program outlined by the UAW embraces three main points: 1) The calling of protest demonstrations in every community on July 16; 2) A

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CIO Vets for Profit Tax to Pay for Bonus

By WALTER JASON

One of the significant developments on the question of a veterans' bonus occurred last week in Michigan at the special session of the state legislature called to take up the matter of a state bonus for Michigan veterans. There was little doubt in anyone's mind that the special session would vote overwhelmingly to approve a state bonus. The Michigan plan calls for a bonus of \$10 a month for every month a soldier spent in the states, and \$15 a month for each month of overseas duty, up to the maximum of \$900 for any veteran. Other provisions take up problems of surviving dependants, etc.

The Michigan plan involves payment of around \$270,000,000 or an average of about \$280 per veteran. It goes before the voters of the state for approval in November, since the Michigan constitution provides that such an expenditure must be made by constitutional amendment via referendum vote.

Of course, there is nothing new in the idea of a state bonus. Massachusetts and Illinois already have approved of the idea, and the Massachusetts veterans already have been paid. What is significant in the Michigan state bonus development is the attitude of the veterans organizations

Big Four Talks Get Nowhere

By HENRY JUDD

About the only item agreed on at the recent Paris Conference of the Big Four was that the meeting had gone on long enough and the time had come to adjourn. So, after endless talking, the Foreign Ministers have all returned to their respective countries, each anxious to blame the other and explain how his own proposals were the only true "peace" plans put forward.

In his speech to the American people on July 15, Secretary of State Byrnes presented his standpoint on the Paris Conference, and the coming Conference of the 21 victor nations scheduled for July 29. After an apologetic speech, Byrnes concluded with the hope that the new 21-Power conference will produce more substantial results towards a real, international peace. But the very tone and content of his talk denied his own belief in this. Actually, this new conference will have little power to change or alter previous decisions or "deals" of the Big Four.

NO PROBLEMS SOLVED

The fact of the matter is that while some progress was made toward drafting peace treaties with Italy and the Balkan powers, not a single one of the basic problems of Europe was resolved. The questions of Germany; the disposition of the Ruhr; Austria's future; economic and trade rights in the Balkans and more than a dozen other questions related to the Italian and Balkan treaties were not resolved.

Germany still stands as the major obstacle in the strenuous efforts of the Big Four imperialists to agree among themselves. So far apart are the powers on this question that after a presentation of the opposing points of view, the whole conference wound up without the slightest effort

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The New Ceiling



Senate Logrolls New Bill Continuing Price Debacle

The Senate has just passed an OPA Extension Bill which legalizes price profiteering and sets a premium on gouging the people. The bill is but another proof that the Congress of the United States is the governmental expression of the interests of big business.

This time the senators went almost all the way in giving the profiteers a free hand on the price front, dressing up the fraud with the imposing title of "Office of Price Administration Extension Bill."

The bill consists almost wholly of exemptions on those commodities

which directly touch the pocketbooks of the working men and women of this country. These exemptions are granted in food, clothing and, as we shall point out, rent control.

Here is what the representatives of big business did: They exempted from price control:

- meat
- poultry
- milk
- butter
- cigarettes, cigars, smoking and chewing tobacco
- petroleum and grain

They passed a so-called rent control measure which would leave the matter up to the individual states where the interests of the real estate and landlord lobbies are even more effective than in Washington.

The senators, representing the capitalist interests of their various states, proceeded to "scratch each other's backs" by trading votes on amendments. Senators from dairy producing states voted for meat exemption amendments of the "meat senators" in return for a mark-up in prices on milk, butter and cheese.

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Workers Party Candidates Denounce May

Max Shachtman and Ernest Rice McKinney, Workers Party candidates for Congress from the 15th and 22nd Congressional Districts, charged this week that the deal made by a Mr. Garsson with Representative May through which the American people were indirectly fleeced out of many hundreds of thousands of dollars is only one of the instances in which the imperialist war enriched the profiteers at the expense of the workmen and of the middle classes.

Their statement reads: "Reading like a sordid story in some yellow newspaper, the incident of bribery and corruption between a Representative in Congress from the State of Kentucky and a businessman who started with a letterhead and ran it up to some seventy million dollars illustrates what the profiteers did while workmen were sweating away sixty hours a week in war plants and their sons were dying on the shores of four continents from North Africa and France to Indo-China and India,

not to mention a hundred bloody islands and atolls in between."

"The story unfolding in the presence of the Senate War Investigating Committee is a simple one. A man named Henry Garsson and his brother, using a letterhead with which they founded their business, were able to secure millions of dollars in war contracts and substantial advances in cash with which they acquired a factory building and some machinery. This beginning they expanded into a paper empire of war contractors in a short period of time. They emerged with a holding company and some sixteen subsidiary corporations. The Erie Basin Metal Products Company, one of the corporations in question, spent over a million and a half dollars in three years for rent and maintenance on a plant originally valued at one hundred and twenty thousand dollars.

"The enormous profits from these enterprises, of course, went into the pockets of Henry Garsson and his as-

sociates. And testimony given before the Senate War Investigating Committee indicates that tens of thousands of dollars was paid to the Cumberland Lumber Company for which the ordered lumber was never delivered. Many of the checks thus paid were endorsed by A. J. May before being

The New York Local of the Workers Party announced this week that its drive to gather twelve thousand signatures for the purpose of putting Max Shachtman and Ernest Rice McKinney on the ballot will begin on Saturday, July 27. Petitions are now at the printer and will be ready in advance of the day designated. The entire New York membership of the Workers Party is being mobilized to make this intensive campaign effective. Help the Workers Party put two revolutionary Socialists on the ballot!

By EMANUEL GARRETT

With mass indignation running high against the intolerable price situation, union and consumer bodies are organizing a series of protest actions. Spearheaded by the nationwide stoppages called for July 16 by the UAW, plans are taking shape in city after city for a wide variety of action.

Local demonstrations and activities are being organized in preparation for a nationwide Buyers Strike. In New York some 70 organizations have announced five mobilization points from which picket lines will issue on July 23. AFL truckers in Minneapolis are planning a mass "work holiday" on July 31.

Connecticut CIO unions are planning a statewide buyers strike. Philadelphia unions are picketing stores, and planning a mass demonstration. Buffalo organizations are mobilizing mass picket lines. The National CIO Executive Board which is scheduled to meet on July 18, will discuss action on the price situation.

These are actions in the right DIRECTION, and LABOR ACTION calls upon its readers to join in the protest, to participate in the buyers strikes. In so doing, however, we call attention to the fact that a buyers strike is limited in effectiveness and value. As we have said before, it can serve as a noteworthy demonstration of mass anger and determination to halt price increases. To actually hold the price line, and to hurl it back to a reasonable level, more, much more, is required.

A systematic campaign uniting union activity with consumer action on a national scale is obviously indicated. Unless the unions, that is, the organizations of labor, are involved on a national scale and agreed upon an aggressive policy of wage and price action, everything else that is done will prove to have little value. Thus, the proposal made by the UAW, through its president, Walter Reuther, that Phillip Murray ask the CIO Executive Board to call for a united labor conference of ALL CIO, AFL, Railroad Brotherhood and independent unions, is the kind of proposal dictated by the situation. In the absence of such a national conference, and it is unlikely that the CIO Executive will call such a conference, it will be up to the individual unions to organize the kind of action that is most meaningful.

RESURGENCE OF MILITANCY

Three factors are responsible for the resurgence of militancy among the auto workers. They are, first, bad working conditions, centering around issues like ventilation, etc.; second, the auto companies systematically are introducing speedup in an effort to gain more productivity per man and thus actually cutting wages. The third factor, one that has hit every worker in America, is, of course, the sky-rocketing cost of living that has wiped out wage gains previously won in militant struggle in the auto and other industries.

Realization that this problem is not solely one of the auto workers and that the auto workers should not be left alone in spearheading the American labor movement, has brought more support to the excellent idea that the GM program be a national CIO policy. Time and again Reuther and his associates insist that contracts must be negotiated on the basis of higher wages without an increase in prices and that higher wages must

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A buyers strike, we have said, is a valuable demonstration, but a limited one. What then can be done? First of all, the very actions organized around a buyers strike and similar protests can serve to initiate more effective means of price control: namely, committees of workers' (union) representatives and housewives to control prices in each neighborhood, and linked for effectiveness through national bodies.

A BASIC PROGRAM

But that, too, is insufficient. Labor has it in its power to control prices at the source. For example, the 3-point price control program which the UAW is now championing, and in which the central plank is a buyers strike, can be given real meaning only if it's linked with the GM Program ad-

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deposited and Representative May admitted that he had used his influence to see that contracts went from the various corporations controlled by the Garsson brothers.

"Henry Garsson and his associates are relatively small time businessmen and swindlers who were trying to cash in on the millions of dollars being made available to corporations who were willing to handle war contracts. The Garssons were pikers compared to the billion dollar corporations controlled by the Morgans, the du Ponts, the Fords, the Chase National Bank, the National City Bank, the Bankers Trust Co., and the Guarantee Trust Co. who were able to make billions of dollars in profits out of buildings, plants and machinery which they borrowed from the Federal government and in which the bankers invested hardly a cent of their own.

"The difference between these gigantic swindles and the relatively small swindle engaged in by the Gar-

ssons is that the giant corporations did everything in a more legal and more polished manner. Congressmen do not have to be bribed by the aluminum trust or the sugar trust directly. They have long standing connections as ex-corporation lawyers with these gigantic monopolies. Or they are investors of long standing in the stocks and bonds of the gigantic corporations. In their daily gyrations in Congress they always defend the interests of "private enterprise" by which is meant the interests of the monopolies in retaining their profit-making control of American production.

"The crime committed by the aluminum, tin, steel, auto, rubber, and chemical dynasties against the American people, a crime of manufacturing enormous profits for themselves out of an imperialist war, a war for the protection of foreign investments and foreign markets—this crime is greater in magnitude than the crime of the Garssons who did the same thing on a

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"The Fight for Socialism" -- a Must Book Explaining the Program of the Workers Party

THE FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM, The Principles and Program of the Workers Party, by MAX SHACHTMAN—New International Publishing Co.—Price \$1.

Reviewed by SUSAN GREEN

"The Fight for Socialism," Max Shachtman's book on the why and how of socialism, fulfills a long-felt need in our movement. Here is a book of 182 pages, easily tucked into a coat or overall pocket or into a handbag, for reading in subways, trolleys and buses. Here is a book that gives in broad outline what every contact and newcomer to socialism wants to know.

Because the coverage is so comprehensive, this little book can serve as the basis and outline for further study. A class conducted with "The Fight for Socialism" as the textbook, would lead to that kind of inquiry and discussion that would net the students a pretty sound grasp of the principles and program of socialism, which are, of course, the principles and program of the Workers Party. Likewise can an individual by himself, making an acquaintance with these fundamentals through the pages of Comrade Shachtman's book, feel impelled to further study of points only concisely developed in this necessarily concise little book.

This does not mean that it is merely a base for further study and cannot stand on its own. Quite the contrary. Comrade Shachtman has written not only a very readable and intrinsically informative book, but an enjoyable one as well. Several distinctive factors of style have contributed to this result.

A SMOOTHLY WRITTEN AND CLEAR BOOK

First, while the writing is expository, explaining as it does such phenomena as the economic laws of the capitalist system, the democracy of a workers state, the composition and function of the revolutionary socialist party, it is not weighted with lead. Rather the logical sequences flow so smoothly that for pages at a time it is like reading a narrative.

In the second place, Shachtman had in mind when writing, and put down on paper, certain capitalist myths, capitalist-inspired objections and legitimate workers' doubts which have to be answered. Picking at random, here is how the section "What Is Politics?" of Chapter VI begins:

"What does the word 'politics' mean to the average worker? It brings to his mind a picture of graft, bribery and corruption. If he sees two men fighting madly to grab off a rich office-plum, he says, 'That is politics for you.' If he sees a public figure (or sometimes a figure in the labor movement) doing something un-

derhanded in order to line his pockets or to climb up the ladder of officialdom, he says, 'That is politics.' If he sees a man getting a summons for speeding cancelled by telephoning a friendly ward-heeler, he says, 'That is politics for you.' If he hears a labor leader shout, 'We don't want any politics in the unions,' he nods his head in agreement."

Against this common vulgarization of politics, the writer develops the idea of political action and state power, leading the reader to an explanation of an independent labor party and a Workers' Government.

SOCIALISM—THE ALTERNATIVE TO BARBARISM

Again, in the same style, the important Chapter IX entitled "Socialism—The Alternative to Barbarism," begins with a direct address to the reader and what he may be thinking:

"Suppose you do not join in the fight for socialism. Suppose you do not organize and work for its victory. Will the society you live in remain just as it is, will it move forward, or will it slip backward? This question is of vital concern to everyone, especially to every worker. It is most important to understand what will happen to capitalist society, if it is not replaced by socialism. To answer the question, let us examine the direction in which capitalism is moving, why it is moving that way, and what are the consequences for society."

It might also be added, on the score of style, that the "theoretical stuff" is not reduced to abstractions over which a reader would have to puzzle to no avail. Wherever possible the economic theory is clothed in illustrative material and developed in terms of living meaning to the worker. A good example of this style is the story of capitalist depressions at the end of Chapter III.

Now a few remarks about the excellence of the content, so lucid and clear-cut throughout. This reviewer was struck particularly with the first section of Chapter VII, the section entitled "The First Steps of a Workers' Government." So much is said, and so clearly, in a few short pages! The section answers the questions so often repeated: "Shall the property of the big capitalists be confiscated without compensation?—Shall all private property be nationalized immediately?—Shall economic life be centrally organized and planned?—Shall economic life be democratically managed and controlled?"

When these questions are succinctly answered, the conclusion is drawn: "The Workers' Government has taken the first important steps toward the achievement of Socialism!" It is a conclusion that really flows from what precedes.

A CHAPTER THAT REQUIRES THOUGHT

A meaty chapter, requiring very thorough chewing, is VIII, entitled "The Need for a Revolutionary Socialist Party." Here are no routine formulations. Introducing the division dealing with "The Principles and Program of the Workers Party," we read:

"There are several parties which proclaim the same goal. This is often very confusing to a worker. He will say: 'How am I to tell which party is the right one for me to join or support?' Or, 'Why don't all those who are in favor of socialism unite into a single party?' Or, 'If you cannot agree among yourselves, how do you expect me to agree with any of you?'"

"It should not be too hard to answer these questions," continues Comrade Shachtman. "When a worker learns that a tool is useful and necessary, he does not throw up his hands in despair merely because there are many varieties of that tool offered to him. He reads carefully the claims made for each variety and the description given of what it can do, and he judges from experience which one really serves the purpose best."

A BOOK YOU'LL WANT TO HAVE

The chapter goes on to lay all the cards on the table so the reader knows exactly where the Workers Party stands from, what it stands for, where it is going. There remains no doubt as to the Workers Party's position on revolution, on immediate demands, on democracy, and so on. Then this unequivocal revolutionary party is compared with others, the Social-Democratic and the Stalinist parties, so that the reader can have a basis for making his choice, or at least for studying further in order finally to make his choice. One criticism of this excellent Chapter VIII is that it could stand a few more sub-heads for more facile reading.

One final tribute to the utility value of "The Fight for Socialism." A member of the Workers Party or any socialist confronting a worker who needs an explanation of a certain subject, can refer to chapter, subdivision and page of Comrade Shachtman's book. This reviewer can hear herself saying to a friend who, for example, might object to a workers' state as being opposed to democracy: "You ought to read pages 122 to 130 in 'The Fight for Socialism.'" This section entitled "Between Capitalism and Socialism" answers all your doubts and misgivings. Do you want to borrow my copy or would you like to buy your own?—And, of course, this reviewer would have on hand her own copy—as well as one to sell.

A Report from France Where Hunger Reigns

PARIS, FRANCE, July 1—One of the first things you learn in France is to wipe your plate clean with your small supply of bread. This compares favorably to the plate-licking we did when we were kids in the United States, except that here it is a fundamental economic necessity. As one of our French friends explains, it is foolish to leave the juices of the meal lying on the bottom of the plate, then to be tossed down the drain. The necessity for dishwashing is reduced or eliminated.

Today the bread shops were closed and we had no bread. There was little to eat. Without bread, the French diet is a reducing diet with serious consequences. People grumble at one another, they glare a bit and stare out of bare windows. The little children, gaunt, hungry-looking, stare at an occasional well-fed American soldier who saunters by.

Cherries are plentiful this year. Prices range from 20 francs at the central market ("Les Halles") to 60 francs in the outlying markets. But there are thousands of poor workers in Gay Parea who do not have the 20 francs to buy cherries.

Visualize what happens in America when coal and railroad stoppages occur together. In France this has taken place for virtually the last two years. No coal in winter-time for heating. Limited electric power. No hot water for bathing. Even the public "la douche" which charges from 12 francs up is very expensive for the poor worker of Paris. And la douche is open only on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The lines are long; you wait and wait for your turn. The soap does everything but lather. People cannot clean themselves properly. Diseases which breed on filth are growing.

CONSTANT DEPRIVATION

Think of a meal without oil, or cooking without meat not for one day, or two days, but for weeks at a time. With only a few vegetables, your bread and some cheese you have the same drab meal day in and day out. Waiting in line for hours for a few potatoes of doubtful quality and some equally questionable string beans is an everyday occurrence.

The number of women who faint while queuing up for the small food available is going down only slowly. Meanwhile the grain merchants are making fortunes—out of the misery of an underfed population. The black market in meat and all other basic foods is enormous. It pervades all economy, shifts the burden of suffering onto the backs of the worker masses who can least support such a terrible load.

JOIN THE BUYERS STRIKE. JOIN THE PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS. JOIN THE PICKET LINES. ORGANIZE COMMITTEES OF WORKERS AND HOUSEWIVES TO CHECK ON AND CONTROL PRICES. PRESS FOR A NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF OUR UNIONS. GET YOUR UNION INTO ACTION IN LINKING WAGE AND PRICE DEMANDS!

There is a veritable sugar starvation which defies description. Where an American who receives sugar in other foods would find it difficult to eat a full chocolate bar, the Parisian worker suffers from a crying sugar lack in his diet. For one chocolate bar, a Frenchman will pay many francs, so that he can give his children something sweet. Milk is practically impossible to obtain as French dairy herds were reduced during the war.

STARVE WITH EASE

Counting up all the grammes allotted on the ration cards we discovered that if it were possible to obtain all the food listed on the cards, even at poor quality levels, a poor French worker could starve to death with ease. Most of the time the items listed are not available in sufficient quantities and as for quality there is no such thing.

When packages arrive in Paris, militants in the working class—incredibly as this may sound—send the contents on to their starving worker brothers in Germany and Austria. To them, the phrase "workers of the world, unite!" is no joke. They realize their German and Austrian brothers are in a near-death condition and it is their task to preserve the proletariat in these smashed countries.

With Communist and Socialist Parties composing a substantial part of the French government, no real steps have been taken to improve the food situation. On their part, both the American imperialists and the Stalinist rulers of Russia have utilized shipments of food to influence French elections and opinion, always, however, limiting the amount of food.

In terms of human misery and degradation, as compared to the situation in America, it is appalling to find in France hundreds upon hundreds of cripples, misshapen persons, sickly people. All our friends have colds. Tiny epidemics of disease break out. Without new clothing for the war years, the French workers are ragged and down at the heels.

No new suits are available except to those with enough money to pay the enormous black market prices. Shoes are increasingly present, but most Parisians continue to wear sandals, straw contraptions, or inflexible cork or wood platforms which injure the foot. Few women wear socks or stockings. In rainy weather the straw shoes practically dissolve, the clothes become even more shabby. The struggle to live is fierce and unrelenting.

JACQUES.

Price Rises Hit Workers' Pocketbooks --

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vanced by the union in the General Motors strike. Elsewhere in this issue, you will find a discussion of this program, and its meaning in the present price situation.

The GM Program, in linking wages, prices and profits, in seeking to give labor a voice in determining all three, gets to the very heart of what labor must do. That is to say, labor must intervene directly, and at the point of production, in halting the price gouge. The same goes for all other problems related to the price and commodity situation, and there are many—such as the problem of shortages.

Let us take the Packinghouse Workers Union (UPWA) as an example of what could be done. The packinghouse workers are demanding: (1) \$1.00 an hour minimum; (2) A guaranteed annual wage; (3) A cost of living bonus; (4) Elimination of wage differentials. All these are excellent demands. But they could go a lot further towards helping both the packinghouse workers, and the people of the United States generally.

PROFITTEERING IN MEAT

In their paper, The Packinghouse Worker, they expose the profiteering of the Big Four Packers, not merely in meat, but in butter, eggs and cheese (of which they control about half of all interstate sales). The Packinghouse Worker goes further in exposing the utter callousness of the meat monopolists. Until OPA collapsed entirely, meat was virtually unobtainable—and shortages were as severe a problem as impossible prices. Meat is now beginning to emerge on the market at fancy profit-making prices. But, says The Packinghouse Worker, "cold storage holdings in the United States on May 1 was almost as high as the previous year." At the very moment when the Big Packers, Armour, Swift and their colleagues, were screaming that meat was unavailable because they had no cattle to slaughter, "total meats in storage amounted to 669,445,000 pounds, approximately 55,000,000 pounds more than on May 1, 1945."

CIO Vets

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rich were suggested by the CIO veterans. Naturally the legislators ducked this "hot potato." The November vote will not include any proposal on the financing of the bonus except that a special bond issue will be made to permit payment of the bonus.

But the UAW-CIO veterans gave every indication that their struggle for a real bonus, not one paid for by themselves or organized labor, or the working people in general, has just begun. The hopes of the Republican and Democratic politicians that they could buy the veterans votes received a serious setback because of the attitude of the UAW-CIO veterans.

In the coming struggle for a federal bonus, in which the UAW-CIO veterans can be expected to play a big role, the skirmish in Michigan is a good starting point and an excellent example for veterans everywhere. Grab the war profits to pay the veterans. That central idea should be the strategic aim in every fight for the veterans.

This bears out the charge made in LABOR ACTION that meat, like wheat, butter, etc., was available, but that it was being kept off the market deliberately by the profiteers in order to boost prices, and also, in this case, to try to whip up a little phoney sentiment against the workers who were making necessary wage demands. It bears out our charge that meat couldn't get into the black market unless the packers put it there.

And this has every relation to prices! Just as the sudden appearance of butter, which last week was strictly an under-the-counter-commodity, has every relation to prices. It means that the profiteers are out to milk the consumer; that they'll withhold commod-

ities, resort to every stratagem to boost their profits. That is where labor enters.

Suppose, in addition to the four demands the UPWA is making, it added several others in line with the GM Program. Suppose it told Armour and Swift that, in addition to a wage increase, the union wanted the right to examine the books of the company, wanted a voice in determining what profits, prices and wages should be, and that it would not permit an increase in prices. If UPWA did this, it would AT ONE AND THE SAME TIME, be defending the price interests of the great mass of people, and it would be challenging the bankrupt clique of food monopolists who pit

their selfish motives against the food needs of a people.

The situation duplicates itself in every industry, in every part of the country. We are not listing the upward movement of prices because anything we print today will be dated, will be too low by tomorrow. Merely as an illustration: Dun & Bradstreet, the Wall Street statistical firm, reports that its daily index of prices for 30 commodities had climbed to 229.6 on July 15 as against 228.9 three days earlier, 219.4 a week earlier, and 178.5 a year earlier.

These commodities represent industries. These industries employ workers. These workers have their unions. These unions could push the price spiral downwards. How? By moving into action along the lines of the GM Program. By organizing labor and consumer action. By coordinating this campaign on a national scale.

Prices are out of hand. But the situation is NOT beyond our control. JOIN IN THE BUYERS STRIKE. JOIN THE PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS. JOIN THE PICKET LINES. ORGANIZE COMMITTEES OF WORKERS AND HOUSEWIVES TO CHECK ON AND CONTROL PRICES. PRESS FOR A NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF OUR UNIONS. GET YOUR UNION INTO ACTION IN LINKING WAGE AND PRICE DEMANDS!

marked the continued victory of Stalinist Russia on the diplomatic and strategic field. The Russians held firm in central and southeastern Europe (Germany, Austria, Poland, the Balkans). This accounts for the apologetic tone of Secretary of State Byrnes. In the sinister game of preparing bases and achieving diplomatic successes as preparatory measures for the next year, imperialist Molotov is still one up on imperialists Byrnes, Bevin and Bidault.

In general, the Paris conference ination of another area in the Balkans. The compromise over Trieste gave Russia a foothold in this area, denied the Trieste population the elementary right to express themselves on the matter, and in creating a so-called international zone, merely succeeded in legalizing the New Danzig area of the present war. Nobody considers the question really settled, and the city is already claiming leadership in the scramble for the area to have the "honor" of setting off World War III.

Erber on National Party Tour

Ernest Erber, Editor of The New International, will conduct a speaking tour in behalf of the National Committee of the Workers Party. This tour is being organized in connection with the campaign of the Workers Party against rising prices, the housing crisis and the runaway inflation which the bosses and their government are imposing on the country.

His itinerary is as follows:

Hibbing	August 19
Minneapolis	20-21
Chicago	22-25
Detroit	26-27
Louisville	28-29
Cleveland	30-31
Akron	September 1-2
Buffalo	3-4
Newark	6
Philadelphia	11-12
Baltimore	13-14
Reading	16-17
Boston	20-21

Reports of the meetings which Comrade Erber will address will appear regularly in future issues of LABOR ACTION.

All readers interested in hearing Erber's talks are urged to get in touch with local branches of the Workers Party or to write to our office for further information. Advertisements for these meetings will also appear in LABOR ACTION.



Diplomat Byrnes

already looted from German-occupied territory Mr. Molotov has not yet reported.

MILKING THE GERMAN COW

America and Britain, working closest together, propose a loosely-federated Germany of all the occupying powers as the most favorable method of achieving a harmonious milking of the German cow. All Four Powers are motivated solely by the desire to keep Germany in bondage, prepare strategic strong points in their maneuvers against each other and suck what they can out of the defeated people.

The imperialist character of the Conference is further underlined by the nature of the agreements actually arrived at. Italy is, to put it mildly, given the works. Her Navy and mer-

UAW Rallies --

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buyers' strike; 3) United resistance to rent increases. The general objective of these three points is summarized in the slogan: "Congress must be forced to act." The main point of emphasis for all UAW policy has become to achieve the restoration of price controls by Congress.

Even the idea of a buyers' strike is linked up with a fight to force Congress to act; for it is obvious that the people cannot refuse to buy the necessities of life forever. There must be some point at which the strikes can come to an end. The UAW program proposes: "We must urge all our members and every consumer to buy only the minimum of food, milk, and absolute necessities until Congress enacts a price control law with teeth in it and the administration staffs the OPA with men with guts enough to resist big business pressure."

The terrible weakness of the UAW program is this: It makes everything depend upon action by CONGRESS after it has been proved to the hilt that this Congress is the sworn enemy of price control. Suppose Congress does NOT enact and enforce a real price control bill? And that is the unfortunate likelihood. What shall labor do then? There is no reply in the UAW program.

The program adopted by the UAW for the General Motors strike insisted that wage increases could be achieved without price increases by the simple device of taking them out of the profits of the parasitic capitalist class. It is necessary to go at least one step

further now. We must have a program of ACTION by labor to carry out the ideas of the GM Program and that involves a program to stop price increases.

The workers themselves must control prices! We cannot and must not rely upon Congress... that is the road to defeat. FOR PRICE CONTROL BY LABOR!

The UAW proposes to control the price of housing (rent) by mass flying squadrons which will compel the landlords to keep down the rents. The same idea must be applied to ALL commodities (for housing is itself a commodity and its price is the rent).

The workers in the mines produce the raw materials. The workers on the railroads transport the raw materials to the factories. The workers in the shops fabricate the parts. Other workers finish and assemble the products. More workers transport the product to where it can be sold to the consumer. BUT THE CAPITALIST CONTROLS THE PRICE!

Let the workers form union committees for the purpose of regulating and setting the price of the products that they themselves produce. These committees can control the price of the product at every stage of production. That is the only practical program for price control. It is a thousand times more realistic than reliance upon a Congress which represents the landlords, capitalists and bankers.

Price Control by Union Committees!

ATTENTION OAKLAND, CALIF., READERS:

ALBERT GOLDMAN

will speak on

Workers Party Program For American Labor

Sunday, July 28 — 8 P. M.

Jenny Lynd Hall

2229 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland

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